



The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act: *Effective Education for Homeless Children and Youth in Vermont* *December 9, 2008 Update*

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1. Liaison Reporting Requirements School Year 2008-2009

Last year, Vermont schools identified and enrolled over 833 homeless students. At the end of this school year, every supervisory union/school district in Vermont will provide updated information on services to homeless students. This data is used for federal reporting purposes and is submitted electronically along with the CFP application for federal funds. Data on the following questions will be requested:

- **The total number of homeless students IDENTIFIED (3-5yr to 12th grade)**
- **The number of homeless students ENROLLED by grade level (3-3 yr to 12th grade)**
- **The primary nighttime residence of ENROLLED students when identified as homeless.**

A copy of the actual report form to be used this year is attached to this Update.

Data collection is quickly done at the end of the school year if you have used the **Homeless Liaison Worksheet** for each identified student. The Liaison Worksheet is available in your red McKinney Vento packet...or online at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/liaison_worksheet_0708.pdf

The **Simple Information System notebook**, with sections for both referral forms and you worksheets, is available from the state Homeless Education office; contact Lisa Champney at 828.6574 or lisa.champney@state.vt.us to have a notebook sent to you.

2. Residency and Guardianship Update: This information was sent out to Superintendents and Principals earlier this week in the DOE Field Memo.

The McKinney Vento Act, as amended under NCLB, provides continuity of education for students who are homeless. Vermont residency law is consistent with federal law in requiring that students identified as homeless be immediately enrolled in either the school currently serving the area where the student is living or the school where the student was enrolled prior to homeless status (school of origin). If a student is enrolled in the school of origin, schools are required to provide transportation and the cost is shared between SUs. Guardianship issues may not prevent immediate enrollment and are addressed separately from homeless status.

Reference Vermont Statute: Title 16 Education, Chapter 25: Attendance and Discipline, 1075 Legal Residence, paragraph (e):
<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/statutes/fullsection.cfm?Title=16&Chapter=025&Section=01075>

All supervisory unions in Vermont have designated a Homeless Education Liaison who is responsible for facilitating the identification and enrollment of homeless students. A complete list of Homeless Liaisons is available at:

http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/contact_list_091708.pdf

- Definition of Homeless Status:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/definition.pdf
- McKinney Vento Law Powerpoint:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/toolbox/homeless_education_0808.pdf
- Vermont Homeless Children and Youth Project technical assistance staff:
http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/pgm_homeless/homeless_brochure_0908.pdf

Contact: Wendy Ross at (802) 828-5148 or wendy.ross@state.vt.us

3. Your First Call for Housing and Other Assistance.... is to the **Economic Services Office** in your region. Click here for information in your region:
http://dcf.vermont.gov/esd/contact_us

The Vermont Agency of Human Services is interested in supporting coordinated services between schools and the Economic Services Offices. **When you have a family in need of housing or other types of assistance, make the call to your regional Economic Services Field Office.**

4. National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Economic Impact Survey Monkey: Please take a minute...click into this survey...and help NAEHCY gather some data on current economic conditions in Vermont by December 10. This information goes to Congress to support increased funding for schools.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=E6knr0CUA2ExanTe6V0evQ_3d_3d

5. U.S. Department of Education Guidance: Guidance on Homeless Children with Disabilities:

This Q&A document, issued by the **Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)**, provides Liaisons and Special Education Directors with information to assist with the implementation of the requirements of the IDEA **and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.**

<http://www.serve.org/nche/m-v.php#guidance>